

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011

Project Details

- 1. Project title:** Helping our Heroes: Preventing Suicide among Oregon Soldiers and Providing Support to Military Families
- 2. Organization name and address:** Oregon Partnership
6443 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. Suite 200
Portland, OR 97221
- 3. Contact information**
 - a. Project's primary contact:** Judy Cushing, President/ CEO
 - b. Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:**
(971)244-1370 office / [REDACTED]
 - c. Email Address:** jcushing@orpartnership.org
 - d. Project location** (if different than organization's address): statewide
- 4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

Oregon Partnership (OP) is a statewide non-profit organization that operates and manages Oregon's ONLY 24-hour statewide Suicide Intervention Line. OP is the Northwest Back-Up Call Center for the National LifeLine/ Suicide Line. In addition, OP operates the statewide Alcohol and Drug Crisis Lines – also staffed 24 hours a day with trained counselors. OP also delivers alcohol and drug prevention education in schools, grades K through 12; trains parents in prevention; manages statewide media campaigns about the dangers of underage drinking and prescription drug abuse; and works with drug-free community coalitions around the state.
- 5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

Oregon Partnership is a statewide non-profit organization.
- 6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

Health & Human Services and Education: SAMSA
- 7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).**

"Helping Our Heroes" addresses the escalating occurrence of suicide and addiction among returning soldiers and veterans, and the stress it causes their families. The "Helping Our Heroes" project will expand OP's LifeLine Call Center to create a dedicated Oregon Line at OP's LifeLine for returning soldiers and their families dealing with mental health, suicide, and alcohol and drug problems. Oregon Partnership has Oregon's ONLY certified trainers in "SafeTALK" – the evidence-based 3 hour suicide intervention training for family members, counselors, military chaplains, and others working with deployed, returning soldiers and veterans. OP will provide SafeTALK trainings in National Guard armories across Oregon to equip military spouses and family members with the skills to recognize signs of depression, PTSD, suicide ideation, mental health issues, and alcohol and drug problems.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

More than half of all veterans who took their own lives after returning from Iraq or Afghanistan were members of the National Guard or Reserve. As alarming, is that the rate of suicide among soldiers who have returned from war zones is at least double the number of troop suicides in war zones. Thousands of men and women also return with disabling injuries and mental health disorders that put them at higher risk for mental illness. Given the nature of injuries in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and the strain associated with long and repeated deployments, the newer generation of veterans appears to be at greater risk of suicide. Add to that the difficulty combat vets face in dealing with failed relationships, financial and legal troubles, health care, and alcohol and other drug problems, it is not surprising that suicide rates are so alarming. Indeed, this represents a major public health crisis.

Oregon Partnership and the Oregon National Guard have laid the foundation for a vital collaboration to begin addressing the issues of suicide, alcohol and/or drug addiction, PTSD and other problems. This project will improve Oregon's economy by addressing addiction and mental health problems that are so costly to taxpayers.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? Yes

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

FY2010, Labor/HHS/Education, Health Care. \$300,000

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$1,200,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Please see attached budget page.

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$2,200,000

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011)? Yes

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

Oregon National Guard: \$200,000

Private foundations: \$300,000

State of Oregon DHS \$200,000

In-kind media: \$200,000

Individual gifts: \$100,000

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

Oregon Partnership

FY 2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

February 2010

Oregon National Guard
Oregon Air Guard

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Office of Governor Ted Kulongoski